

Sisters of Charity of Our Lady Mother of the Church

> 54 W. Main Street Baltic CT 06330

Development Office Tel: 860-822-6323

Email: development@ sistersofcharity.com



Inside This Issue:

Our Family of Benefactors.

Your Impact! Thank You!

Family Blessing Mass and Gratitude Luncheon 2022. 4-5

3

Someone Just Like you...

...Leaving a Legacy for Generations to Come.

SCMC Digital Updates for You. 8

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# WINDS OF CHARITY

A publication of the Sisters of Charity of Our Lady, Mother of the Church

Volume 15, Issue 2

Winter 2022

#### Catch the Fire!

ave you heard? There is a Revival sweeping across the Catholic Church. A Eucharistic Revival. *The Sisters of Charity are definitely on board and we hope you are too!* 

Studies as recent as 2019 show that up to 70% of Catholics do not believe in the Real Presence of Our Lord Jesus Christ in the Eucharist. This is the heart of our Faith.

To address this crisis, on June 19, 2022, the Feast of Corpus Christi, the Catholic bishops of the United States launched a Eucharistic Revival.

This is not about starting a program, they explain. *It is about starting a fire!* A fire in all the dioceses and parishes across this great nation. It's about starting a fire in the heart of each Catholic.

It's about inviting Catholics into a living relationship with Jesus Christ in the Holy Eucharist.

It's about stirring up a wave of Catholics across the United States who are healed, converted, formed and transformed by their encounter with the Lord Jesus in the Eucharist, Catholics who are set on fire to bring the love of Our Eucharistic Lord out to the world.

Our world is hurting. We all need healing, yet many of us are separated from the very source of our strength. Jesus Christ invites us to return to the source and summit of our faith: His Real Presence in the Eucharist.

The Eucharistic Revival aims to renew the Church in the United States by fostering a deeper understanding and love of Our Lord Jesus Christ in the Eucharist.

The Revival will span three years. The first year, which began last June, focuses on diocesan renewal. Dioceses are encouraged to offer opportunities for their leaders to deepen their knowledge and love of this great mystery.

On the Feast of Corpus Christi, 2023, the Revival will move into the second year, focusing on the parish level. The faithful will be provided with opportunities to grow in their

knowledge and love of Our Eucharistic Lord.

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We look forward eagerly to our annual

Corpus Christi celebration with a

Eucharistic procession throughout the

house and grounds of our Motherhouse.

The Revival will culminate in the third year with a Eucharistic Congress in Indiana July 17-21, 2024. Mark your calendars. You won't want to miss this. Cont'd. on p. 2

Sister Christopher assists Ricky with his cookiemaking project. Thank you, Ricky, for your gift of love for the poor.

**Our Family of Benefactors** 

ur Family of Benefactors come from all walks of life and different situations. Some live in healthcare facilities, others are incarcerated. Some live in cities and in villages; in high rises, mobile homes, well established homes or even extravagant homes. Married and single; Priests, Sisters and Brothers. Some working, others retirees or searching for gainful employment. Some young, others seasoned by years. Most Catholic and, yes, others Baptist and Lutheran.

Each of you is a valued and precious member of our family because you have chosen to be a part of our family. You have taken the ministry of the Sisters of Charity as your own and you support us with your love, your prayers and your monetary donations. Each gift is of great value to us, whether it be one

dollar or thousands, because we know it is given in love. Some of you give the best you have—your time and talents.

Meet Ricky Lemire, one of our valued benefactors who gives the best he has. Ricky was born with Crouzon's Syndrome. He is legally blind, has poor hearing and is partially paralyzed. From his very limited allowance, he is a regular donor to the Food Pantry and, with assistance, makes cookies for the Sisters to slip into the holiday food baskets for the poor.

All of our benefactors are dear to us. You are with us when we step into the classroom or a hospital room, or visit the border, or care for our immigrant brothers and sisters, or care for our elder Sisters, or counsel our brothers and sisters who find life burdensome, shattered by grief or poverty. We carry each of you in our hearts and prayers. We are eternally grateful to you for supporting us by your prayers and your generosity. We embrace you with love and with profound gratitude for your sharing in the life and ministry of the Sisters of Charity of Our Lady, Mother of the Church. 😘

the National **Eucharistic** Revival

Theme of

Behold,

make

things

NEW.

Rev. 21:5

From p. 1

The Eucharistic Revival does not end there, however. Renewed, transformed and strengthened in our love and devotion to Our Lord in the Eucharist, in the fourth year and beyond we are sent out as Eucharistic Missionaries to share the fire of the love of Jesus present among us with our local community, to transform our part of the world with the fire of God's love, one person at a time.

Jesus is inviting us, the 30% of Catholics who believe and love the Eucharist, to catch the fire of His love and spread it to others.



We teach our students to know and love Our Eucharistic Lord so that they too Catch the Fire!

May these years of the Eucharistic Revival be for you a true revival - a renewing and deepening of your love for Him who loves us so infinitely and unconditionally that He chose to remain with us until the end of time. Look for more information on the Eucharistic Revival at: https:// www.eucharisticrevival.org



We give

thanks

to

our God

every time

we think

of vou...in

every

prayer

we utter.

(From Phil.

1:3)

#### Your Impact! Thank you!

See the *great impact* you have made in the lives of the Sisters in the past six months alone:

You out-fitted our refectory with new tables. The tables we had were donated to us 60 years ago by a monastery that was closing. They were re-topped several times, but the structure had begun to fail. They were 10 feet long and sagging badly. The time had come to replace them! A dear and generous benefactor and his family offered to replace all our tables in memory of a loved one. After much research, we contracted an Amish company in Pennsylvania to build our tables, in keeping with the monastery style. 8 tables, each 8 feet long. They are perfect, and oh, how beautiful! Thank you!



We are all so delighted with our new tables! No more sagging, no more fear of them falling apart when moved.
Thank you to our dear, generous benefactors.

- Section of the Perpetual Help Center where our infirm and elder Sisters reside. It turned out to be a much bigger job than was expected. Several tons of stone had to be removed as well as two layers of old roofing. During that process, it was discovered that water was trapped between the layers, which accounted for the numerous and continual leaks. Old insulation was also removed. A crew of 12 men worked for a week and a half to remove the old roof and install a new tightly sealed PVC roof with new drains. A tight fitting cap was installed on the edge around the perimeter of the roof. The project took longer than expected, and cost more than originally anticipated because of a combination of supply chain issues and inflation. But, thanks to you, our generous benefactors, we got it done! Now, when it rains we think of you and thank God for your goodness.
- You rebuilt two flights of stairs from the first to the third floor of the *Motherhouse*. The stairs date back a very long time and were beyond a

simple fix. They needed to be rebuilt completely: new stringers, risers and treads. Here they are, in the photo to the left, rebuilt and waiting to be painted and stained.

- You provided for extensive plumbing repairs throughout the Motherhouse. In a building as old as ours, something is always needing attention. In several places we were faced with corroded sewer lines, giving way to leaks. The cast iron waste pipes were replaced in four areas with PVC pipes. *Thank you!* 
  - You updated the lighting in the Sisters' community room and many of the hallways of the Motherhouse. Old light fixtures have been replaced with new LED lights. Old wiring was replaced and outlets and switches added in convenient places. The lighting and electrical service are greatly improved, less expensive and—yes! Safer. Thank you for keeping us safe!



Sister Mary Jane (below) and Mother Mary Jude showing off our new stairs. After they are stained, they will be as beautiful as the original stairs!

Volume 14, Issue 2

## Family Blessing Mass...

From the homily given by Rev. Michael Bovino, celebrant of the 2022 Family Blessing Mass of Thanksgiving:

Thank you. Two very simple words that we hear so often; two words that convey something deep and profoundly Christian.

The expression of thanksgiving is what brings you here today, to be united in the Eucharist, the perfect expression of Thanksgiving. The Sisters offer you this gift of the Eucharist to express their thanks and grati-

tude for all that you do and are for them and for the people they serve.

You are here physically or joining us virtually because you are benefactors of the Sisters. To be a benefactor literally means, "to make good." That is to say, to make good things happen.

A benefactor is one who helps bring about something good; who provides for the needs of others. That is who you are; that is what you do.

And for that, the Sisters say "thank you." They have called you here so that they can extend to you, *in person*, their deepest gratitude for the many ways you "make good." For your prayers, for your financial support, for so many ways you "make good things happen" through and with the Sisters.

It is right and just that the Sisters call you here today to say "thank you," and to do so within the context of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, the Eucharist, the perfect expression of Thanksgiving.















#### ...and Gratitude Luncheon 2022







I alone
cannot change
the world,
but I can
cast a stone
across the water
to create
many ripples.
Saint Teresa of Calcutta













## Someone just like you...

legacy isn't only about leaving what you earned; it's also about what you learned over the course of your life. It's your story.

was sitting in my office on what was a particularly hectic day when I received a phone call from Paul Neary. His dad, Gordon, had recently passed away and had directed that a portion of his Trust be given to our Congregation, the Sisters of Charity of Our Lady, Mother of the Church.

After discussing the details of the gift, I hung up the phone and spent the rest of my afternoon – and evening, really – in profound awe and gratitude for Mr. Neary's extremely generous gift.

As I thought about it, a question came to mind: What does it mean to leave a legacy? So, I reached out to Paul Neary and asked his permission to share with you his parents' story and their legacy.

Gordon was born and raised in St. Louis, MO. He was Catholic school educated from kindergarten through college. Arlene, his wife, hails from Watertown, WI. She was raised

Lutheran, but later converted to the Catholic Faith.

Gordon and Arlene were married in 1954. Theirs was a happy life, built on the values on which they were both raised: strong faith, family first, education coupled with continuous learning, concern for the less fortunate and those in need.

They instilled these important values in their five children, thirteen grandchildren, and fifteen greatgrandchildren. Their lives were shining examples of dedicated service and philanthropic endeavors.

Paul shared a few of these: his parents were generous donors to the Annual Catholic Appeal; they served lunches at the local elementary school; they supported parent organizations; they audio-taped Scripture readings for the blind; they assisted the meals-on-wheels program; they contributed to a significant number of religious organizations.



## ...leaving a legacy for generations to come.

As we were discussing what kind of legacy Gordon and Arlene wanted

to leave for future generations, Paul shared: "As Mom and Dad finalized their estate plans, both wanted to ensure that the good graces of God be shared with those institutions that were aligned with their values. They named five organizations to receive a portion of their estate. Their only hope was that these organizations would be able to carry on God's work for those less fortunate."

It is quite natural to want our lives to count for good after we are gone. The Sisters of Charity of Our Lady, Mother of the Church know that their values and influence today will continue to evangelize God's people and help shape the world of tomorrow. The Sisters prepare for the future because they expect to continue to serve God's people for generations to come.

That is why good people like Gordon and Arlene Neary remember us in their estate planning. They want their names and some of their resources attached to a charitable organization that will communicate their values to future generations.

Faith. Family. Generosity. Gratitude. Education. These are some of the values that guided Gordon and Arlene from a young age and throughout their more than 60 years of marriage.

Most people think of their legacy in terms of material possessions, but it is so much more than that. A legacy isn't only about leaving what you earned, it also about what you learned over





Above: Paul Neary (l.) with family members. Below: Gordon and Arlene Neary, six months before Arlene passed away. They wanted to be sure "God's work for those less fortunate" would be continued.

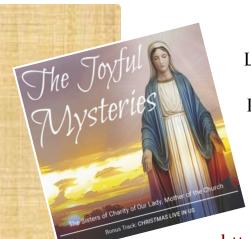


the course of your life. It's your story. And it can be recorded for future generations just like the story of Gordon and Arlene Neary. What does leaving a legacy mean for you?

Margaret Cuccinello, Director of Planned Giving, shares with you the inspiring story and legacy of Gordon and Arlene Neary.



#### SCMC digital updates for you



#### A Christmas Song!

Lyrics and music written by the Sisters *just for you*.

It's the bonus track of our newest CD:

Meditations on the Joyful Mysteries
of the Rosary
written and prayed by the Sisters.
To hear your Christmas Song,
visit us at:

https://sistersofcharity.com/christmas-song

#### Sister Saturdays @SCMC.baltic

"Like" us on Facebook and "follow" along as we introduce you to our Sisters. You are a very important part of our SCMC family, and so we want you to get to know us better, and for us to get to know you. That is why we created "Sister Saturdays." Each Saturday a Sister will be featured. Follow us @SCMC.baltic to meet her. You will also have the opportunity to share a little about yourself. We look forward to meeting you. Let's get to know each other!

Don't have Facebook? No worries. Visit us on our website each Saturday to see the weekly post: <a href="https://sistersofcharity.com/news-reflections">https://sistersofcharity.com/news-reflections</a>





# Connect for Good

54 W Main St Baltic, CT 06330-1300

Tele: (860) 822-6323

<u>Development@</u> sistersofcharity.com

@SCMC.Baltic

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